

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

The drawing has been corrected to bring it into compliance with Rule 121.

The relative pronoun "which" on line 24 of page 2 correctly refers back to "contaminants" and is correct. Deleting this word would garble the sentence.

Claim 1 has been heavily amended to define the invention with greater particularity over the art. It now describes as shown for example in FIGS. 3 and 4 an electric motor for powering downhole tools in a wellbore, the motor comprising:

impermeable and coaxial inner and outer tubes 49 and 30
in contact with wellbore fluids and forming an
axially extending annular space sealed from the
wellbore fluids;
a stator having in the space a series of coiled windings
32 and laminations 31 connectable to a power supply;
a rotor connectable to a rotatable device, forming an
axially throughgoing flowpath-forming passage, and
including a permanent magnet 39 in the inner tube 49

in contact with the wellbore fluids, the permanent magnet 39 of the rotor and the laminations 31 of the stator being arranged annularly with respect to each other; and

a potting material 40 in the space and impervious to wellbore fluids, the laminations 31 and coil windings 39 being potted in the material.

Thus the main claim has been amended to specify that the potted stator (comprising the windings and laminations) is situated between impermeable inner and outer tubes. This allows the windings and laminations to be very effectively hermetically sealed, since no physical contact is necessary between the stator and rotor, further improving the protection provided to the windings and laminations. Further, the claim recites a flowpath for the transmission of fluids past the motor. This is not shown or suggested in any of the references.

More particularly US 5,394,043 of Hsia shows a brushless motor whose the stator is filled with potting material. Hsia does not include any inner tube; instead the potting material is exposed to the air surrounding the stator 142, which in turn is open to the environment outside the motor housing via passage 140. It should also be noted that although Hsia shows a brushless DC motor, it is

for a very different application, i.e. providing a motor for dental and medical applications.

Thus the amended claim clearly recites an invention that is novel over the principal reference under §102 and §103. Allowance of all claims is therefore in order.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

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